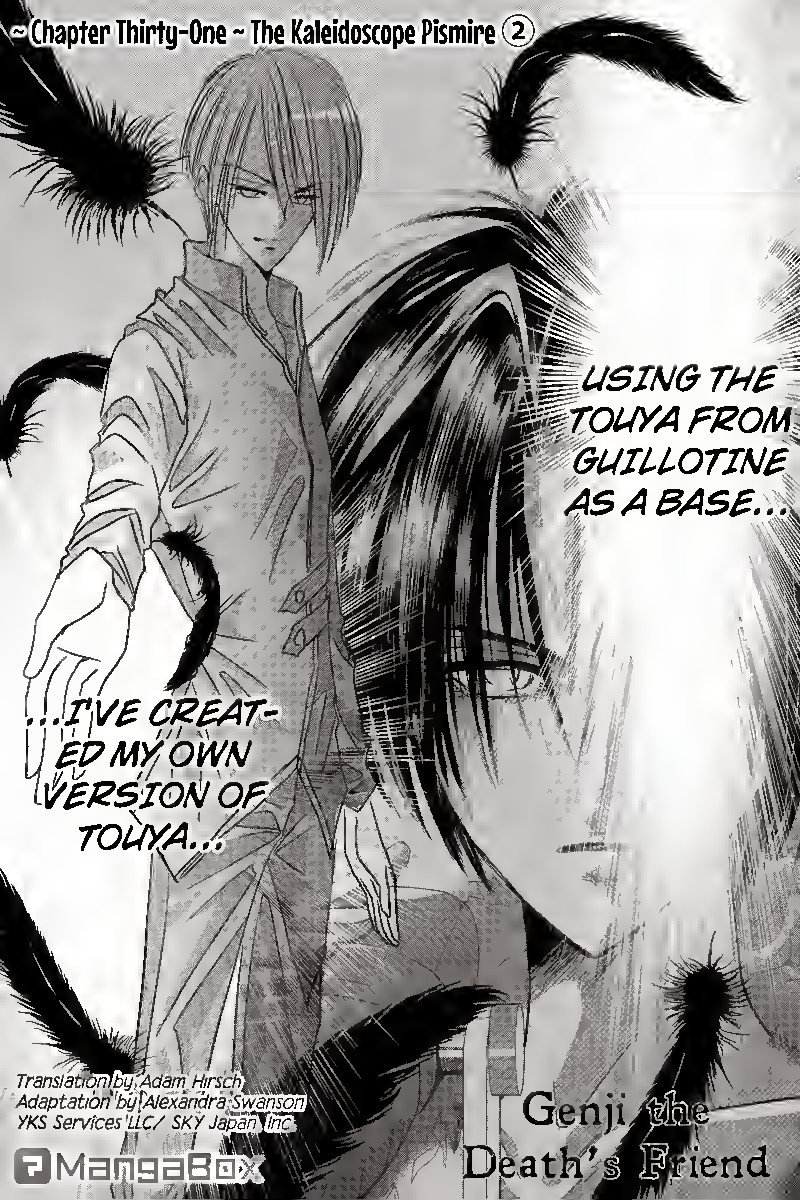

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MangaBox

Genji the Death's Friend

STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU

ART BY MINAMI OZAKI

I MEAN...
...
TH—
THAT'S NOT...
THE SONGS HE SENDS TO MY PHONE... HIS SONGS! THEY'RE REAL!
HOW COULD HE JUST BE IN MY IMAGINATION?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THEN WHO WAS THE TOUYA I SAW ON TOP OF YURI'S APARTMENT?!

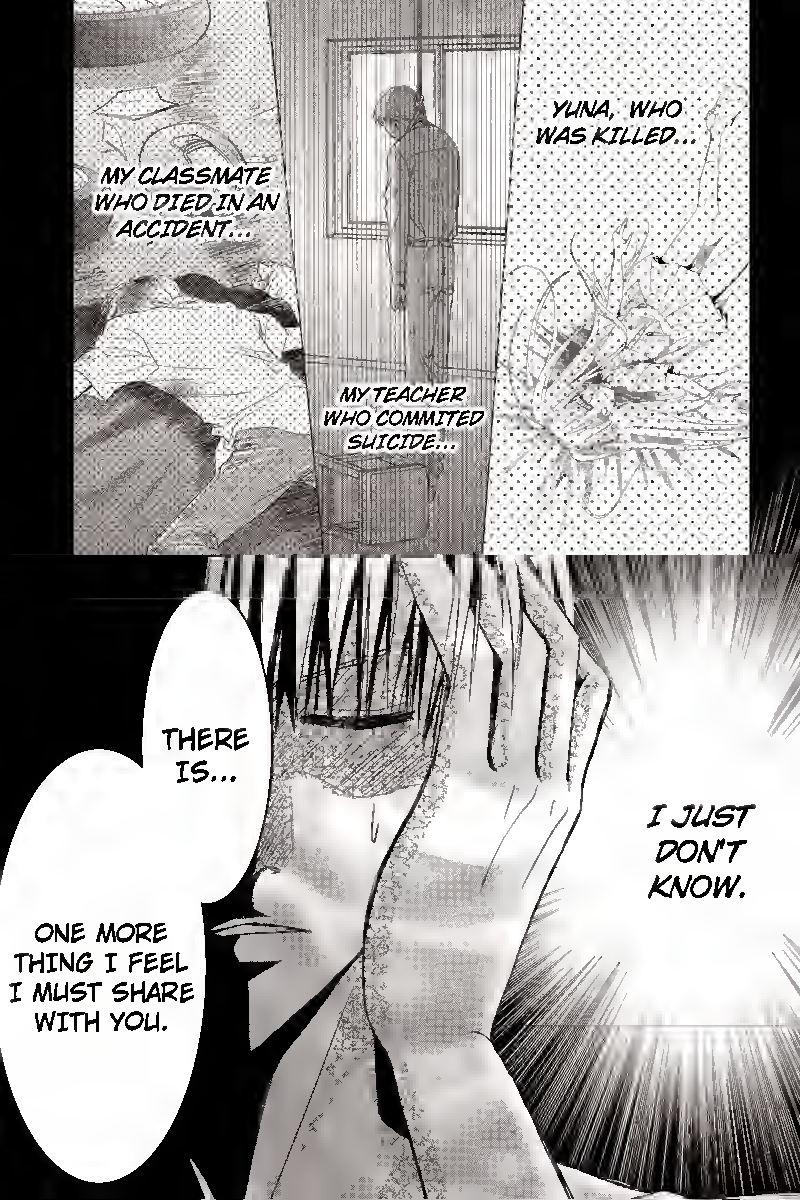
THE SONGS YOU RE-CEIVE...
...ARE MOST LIKELY REAL.
TOUYA FROM GUILLOTINE IS VERY MUCH A REAL PERSON.
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE YOU AND HE KNOW EACH OTHER.
MARIA'S HOUSE!
HER HOUSE-MAID AND JUN BOTH SAW TOUYA THERE!
HOWEVER, THE TOUYA WHO AP-PEARED ATOP YURI HISHIKI'S APARTMENT WAS NOT DISTINCTLY SEEN BY JUN TOMARI, WHO HE'D SUPPOSEDLY STRUCK FROM BEHIND.
MARIA UTSUSEMI'S RESIDENCE, YOU SAY? JUN TOMARI-KUN DID...?

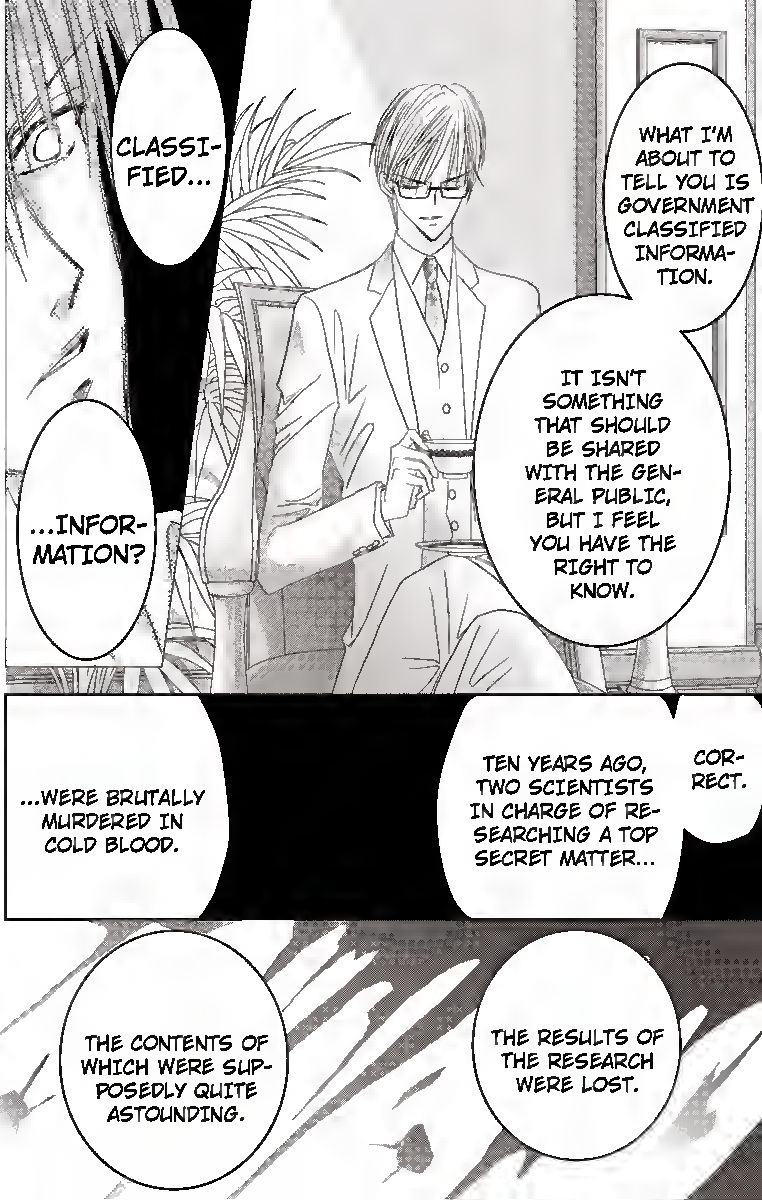
SHIT...
...
HMM?
LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG AND NOW HE'S GOT YOUR TONGUE, KAGARI-KUN?
NO...
IT'S NOTH-ING...
VERY WELL.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN SAY TO PROVE TOUYA EXISTS?!

WITNESSES WHO SAW YOU AND JUN TOMARI WITH MARIA UTSUSEMI AT THE CAFÉ CÉZANNE...
THE SUSPECT FOR THIS CASE, MARIA UTSUSEMI, IS CONVINCED THAT SHE IS STILL SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.
...STATE THEY HEARD YOU SPEAK TO MARIA UTSUSEMI AS IF SHE WERE IN FACT A SIX-TEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL.
KAGARI-KUN...
...COULD IT BE THAT YOU BE-LIEVED MARIA UTSUSEMI'S CLAIM TO BE SIXTEEN SO GENUINELY...
JUST AS YOU BLOCKED YURI HISHKI'S BIRTH-MARK FROM YOUR PERCEPTION BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE IT...

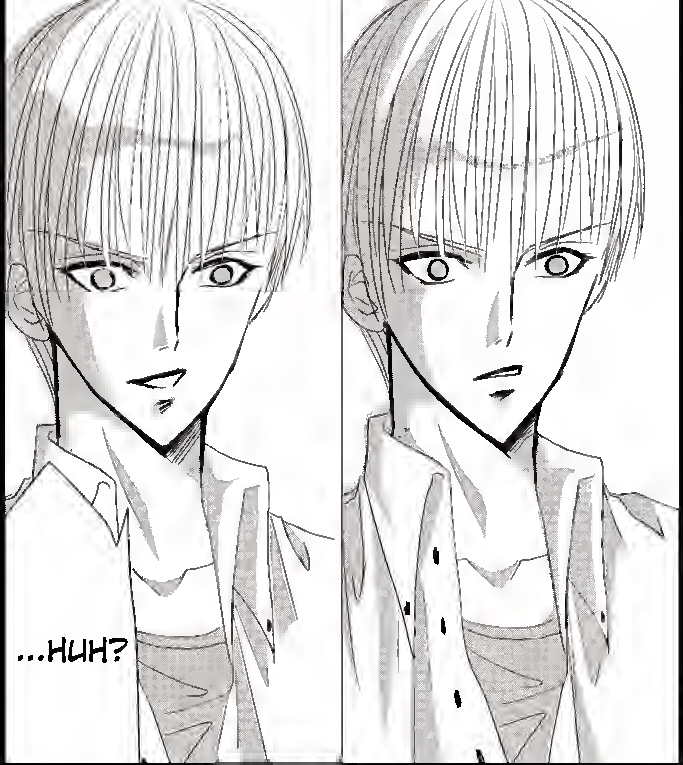
STAGGER
...THAT YOU PERCEIVED HER TO BE A SIX-TEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN ACTUALITY?
HE'S RIGHT.
I SAW A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD MARIA.
...AND HOW MUCH IS AN ILLUSION?
JUST HOW MUCH IS REAL...

THE SHINIGAMI'S VOICE THAT ECHOES IN MY HEAD...
THE FACT THAT PEOPLE OFTEN DIE AROUND ME...
AND RATHER THAN SEE WHAT I NORMALLY SHOULD, I SEE WHAT I'VE CONVINCED MYSELF IS THERE...
CONVINCED...?


MY CLASSMATE WHO DIED IN AN ACCIDENT...
MY TEACHER WHO COMMITED SUICIDE...
YUNA, WHO WAS KILLED...
I JUST DON'T KNOW.
THERE IS...
ONE MORE THING I FEEL I MUST SHARE WITH YOU.


WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS GOVERNMENT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.
IT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE SHARED WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BUT I FEEL YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW.
CLASSIFIED...
...INFORMATION?
CORRECT.
TEN YEARS AGO, TWO SCIENTISTS IN CHARGE OF RESEARCHING A TOP SECRET MATTER...
...WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD.
THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH WERE LOST.
THE CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE SUPPOSEDLY QUITE ASTOUNDING.

THOSE SCIENTISTS WERE YOUR VERY OWN PARENTS, KAGARI-KUN.
AND YOU... WERE THE SOLE WIT-NESS TO THEIR MURDER.



...IS THIS GUY SAYING?

WHAT NONSENSE.

WHAT THE HELL...

YOU ALMOST HAD ME FOR A WHILE.
THE PART ABOUT TOUYA BEING A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION WAS PRETTY GOOD, BUT...
...
GOVERNMENT SECRETS?
HA HA HA
MY PARENTS, THOSE RESEARCHERS?
EXCUSE ME.

AHH...
...
FEAR NOT, CHIAKI-KUN.
HIS TYPE ARE SENSITIVE TO IMPLICATION.
What with that super cop-like, half-baked explanation and all...
YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL BUY IT?

EHH? WE'RE SERIOUSLY GOING TO PLAY DETECTIVE AGAIN?
WELL, THEN. I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS WE HAVE ANOTHER STAKEOUT ON OUR HANDS.
ON TOP OF THAT, THEY ASKED US TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER WITHOUT TELLING US JUST WHAT THIS CRUCIAL "RESEARCH" WAS ABOUT...
THE FIRST DIVISION DROPPED THIS ISSUE INTO MY LAP, AFTER ALL.
'ZAT SO...
SPARKLE
DOESN'T IT FIRE YOU UP?
THERE *MUST* BE MORE TO IT THAN MEETS THE EYE.

SCHWING
WE'LL TAKE MY CAR, OF COURSE!
NO WAY.
I CANNOT STAND TO WALLOW IN THE VILE STENCH OF TABACCO AND MEN THAT FILLS UNMARKED CARS.
The combination of the Bianco's body with the Rosso/Nero interior is positively exquisite
IF WE TAKE YOUR CAR, IT WON'T BE A STAKE-OUT ANY-MORE.
This is the opposite of discreet
Get outta here squirkee
Ah, jeez

HALLUCINATIONS BORN FROM DELUSIONS? GOVERNMENT SECRETS?
SIGH はぁ～
THIS CASE HAS BECOME TRULY INTRIGUING.
...
...YOU CERTAINLY DON'T DISAPPOINT.
SMIRK ボソ…
WHAT WAS THAT?
OH, NOTHING.
You really plan to take that car, don't you?!
WELP, LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

WE HAVE TWO MYSTERIES ON OUR HANDS...
bration
...THESE "GOVERNMENT SECRETS," AND HIKARU KAGARI.

TOUYA IS IN MY HEAD...?
MY PARENTS WERE SCIENTISTS WORKING ON TOP SECRET RESEARCH...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL HE'S TALKING ABOUT. THAT'S JUST RIDIC-
TCH...
NOT FEELIN' IT TODAY, SENPAI?
I CAN'T BLAME YOU. I FEEL THE SAME AFTER THAT INTERROGATION.
CLUNK
HAHA.
...

JUN...?
CHECK IT OUT, GENJI-SENPAI.
THIS THING IS PRETTY NEAT.
THERE ARE ANTS INSIDE RACING ROUND AND ROUND.

HE HE
AHH...
TRAPPED INSIDE, RUNNING EVERY WHICH WAY...
STRUGGLING IN THEIR TINY PRISON, UNABLE TO ESCAPE...
JUST LIKE PEOPLE...
AGAIN...
HE HE HE

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING... SOMEONE IS GOING TO DIE AGAIN, GENJI.
IT'S HERE.